



**Statement By**  
**Her Excellency Aksoltan Ataeva**  
**Head of Delegation of Turkmenistan**

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**United Nations General Assembly**

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Esteemed Mrs. President,  
Esteemed Heads of the Delegations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me to express my sincere gratitude for the honor to speak from this high podium and convey on behalf of the Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Atayevich Niyazov the best wishes of peace, well-being and prosperity to the peoples of all countries.

Permit me also to congratulate esteemed Mrs. President on her election to this lofty and responsible post and wish her success in organizing fruitful work of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly.

Neutral Turkmenistan which marks this year the fifteenth anniversary of its independence builds its relations in the international arena proceeding from the principles of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with all states and international organizations.

Cooperation with the United Nations holds a special place in Turkmenistan's international relations. Turkmenistan welcomes constructive interaction among members of the Community of Nations in elaborating new and effective approaches aimed at preserving and maintaining security and stability in the world and implementing strategic tasks of sustainable development of countries and peoples.

During the more than 10 years that have passed since the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the resolution on permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan on December 12, 1995 our state has demonstrated in practice the fundamental nature of the principles of love for peace and humanism that have formed the basis of Turkmenistan's policy since the day it acquired its independence.

I would like to avail this opportunity in order to express on behalf of Turkmenistan's President our appreciation to UN Secretary General Koffee Annan for his support of Turkmenistan's foreign policy.

Today it is with full merit that we can state that Turkmenistan as a state possessing the status of neutrality has been unswervingly fulfilling its international obligations. BY its deeds our country demonstrates its adherence to peace, cooperation, non-accession to alliances and blocks of a military nature, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, respect for their sovereignty and right to their own path of development.

It is from the position of peace, humanism and mutual combination of interests that Turkmenistan approaches issues of international cooperation placing top priority to the interaction with the United Nations and its structures in strategic areas of partnership.

It is beyond any doubt that the United Nations has been and continues to be the largest and most prestigious international organization that has been entrusted with the coordinating role in world affairs and on which mankind pins its hopes for peaceful development.

Turkmenistan welcomes efforts by the United Nations, its General Assembly and the Security Council aimed at achieving the goals of sustainable development as well as at implementing the tasks set by the 2005 Summit which determined world community's approaches to the most pressing problems concerning stability, humanitarian issues and strengthening and improving the work of the United Nations.

As a sign of tangible results of the collective search aimed at finding the most viable forms of the United Nations functioning we perceive such concrete steps as the establishment of the Commission on Peace-building, creation of the Human Rights Council as well as other constructive steps.

Improvement of the work of the Security Council is undoubtedly one of the most important elements in the successful reform of the Organization. We are convinced that it is essential to carry out this work which is dictated by the objective processes of international development, increasing interaction among the states and greater need for combining regional and global problems.

United Nations is the most important international structure which needs utmost and omni-lateral consideration of all factors underlying the processes that happen in the world. Turkmenistan advocates strengthening of the role of the United Nations and its major bodies in adopting the decisions concerning the most pressing problems of today.

It is in this context that our country stands for the expansion of the Security Council membership on the basis of mutual consent of the UN member states and for initiating a more effective and constructive dialogue between the Security Council and the General Assembly. We believe that the reforms started at the United Nations will be advanced further.

Turkmenistan also welcomes an expansion of the spectrum of states representation in UN structures and institutions while placing emphasis on priority importance of geographical distribution that corresponds to the basis values of our Organization.

Turkmenistan's steadfast position lies in that it favors strengthening of the United Nations in the international arena as the highest international forum for establishing a just and humane world order. Proceeding from its principled position, Turkmenistan advocates increasing the peace-building potential of the Organization in accordance with the realities of global development. Therefore our country devotes great attention to maintaining most close contacts with the offices of UN special agencies whose importance is ever growing.

Esteemed Mrs. President,

The triumph of the principle whereby each nation has the right to chose its own path of development and acceptable form of state order is one of the main achievements of Turkmenistan's independence. It is an essential condition of stability, sustainable and progressive development in all the spheres of society.

Today independent and neutral Turkmenistan is confidently advancing along its chosen path. Every year our country's economic growth surpasses 20 percent with the volume of production per capita exceeding 8 thousand U.S. dollars. Turkmenistan celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a state that guaranteed its own food independence, it provides its population with free natural gas, electricity, water, salt and low rate, in fact, symbolical prices for bread, utility and public transport services, gasoline and so on.

All this is a tangible result of the long-term programme of social and economic transformation carried out in our country under the leadership of the Head of the Nation. Under this programme over 60 percent of the state budget is allocated to the social sphere.

As a democratic state based on the rule of law Turkmenistan steadily implements the highest principles allowing people to express their will. In this regard the Turkmen people possess a vast historical experience of democratic traditions which are organically and progressively finding their way today into the social and political life of our country and find their reflection in the steady realization of citizens constitutional rights and freedoms.

In this respect the year 2006 has become a year of great significance. In accordance with the decision of the highest representative body of power – the People's Council, our country held election of local self-government organs on an open, democratic and competitive basis. As of now this practice is being implemented at other levels of government. In this we see the basis of a consecutive and irreversible process of democratization, ever increasing involvement of the citizens and public organizations in running the country. In Turkmenistan this process is advancing in a natural way thereby instilling in the people the feeling that they are masters of their land, that they are responsible for their destiny and the destiny of their country.

Esteemed Mrs. President,

From the point of view of preserving peace and security non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is one of the most acute problems of the global agenda of today. Our country fully supports efforts of the world community in this sphere and participates in their implementation both at the national and international levels by taking concrete practical steps in this direction.

It should be especially emphasized that in the end of October 2005 the People's Council of Turkmenistan adopted the Declaration in support of the initiatives of international organization against the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Also on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this September Turkmenistan together with other states of the region signed the Treaty on the Establishment of a Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons in Central Asia.

By those actions our country demonstrates in practice its firm commitment to the processes of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this connection we pledge our readiness to implement the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan which was supported by the UN Secretary General on establishment of a Regional Center of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy in Central Asia. All the necessary conditions

and appropriate infrastructure are already available and have been prepared in the capital of our state – Ashgabat.

Turkmenistan has demonstrated its existing potential and possibilities through its active cooperation with the United Nations in organizing major international forums and conferences which discuss most important problems of global and regional nature.

Through practical multilateral dialogue we have become convinced that prevention of potential conflicts require early warning of the emerging situations, a broad based analysis and elaboration of a preventive strategy. Therefore Turkmenistan will continue to make its contribution to improving multilateral cooperation in this highly important area in partnership with the United Nations and its structures by recognizing the great importance of the international experience of preventive diplomacy.

Esteemed Mrs. President,

Turkmenistan is a principled and determined participant in the struggle against the threat that is created by terrorism. We regard terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as a phenomenon that must be placed outside the framework of human civilization.

We are convinced that today in order to combat terrorism we need cooperation of all states including such important issues as cooperation in the search for and extradition of the organizers and participants of terrorist acts as well as their collaborators.

Turkmenistan fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary General in elaborating a global strategy in the fight against terrorism and stands ready to provide practical assistance to the international community in its efforts in this direction.

Esteemed Mrs. President,

The United Nations Organization is a unique reflection of the objective changes occurring in the world and it has clearly demonstrated the will and desire of the states for cooperation under the conditions of stability. The strategic direction of the reforms and the chosen path towards qualitative improvement of the work of the Community of Nations has become the decisive vector of those changes.

Turkmenistan views the reform of the United Nations as a roadmap towards further strengthening and enhancement of its authority. We are convinced that the United Nations has always been and remains the most universal international structure, the most important guarantor of global stability, security and development. Turkmenistan will continue to cooperate more closely with the United Nations in the future helping it to fully display its enormous potential.

Thank you for your attention.